

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, Applicants note that the Examiner has stated an objection to the drawings on the grounds that they “do not show any labels”. In response, Applicants have amended Figs. 1 and 4 to include labels for several of the elements shown therein.

In that Office Action, the claims were rejected as being obvious in view of the disclosures of the previously cited Masuda, Tsunoda, and Tanaka patents, wherein these rejections have been based on new grounds. In response, previously presented Claims 4 and 11 have been cancelled, Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 have been amended, and Claim 12 has been added, and Applicant believes that the claims as now presented are patentable over the prior art for the reasons set forth below.

The image reading apparatus of the present invention comprises a sliding member wherein the sliding member has a screw portion and a sliding portion that slides in contact with a guide member. A position of a unit frame, which forms part of an optical unit, relative to the guide member is able to be adjusted by the rotating the sliding member so that the screw portion rotates in the unit frame. Accordingly, an adjustment of the position of the unit frame is made by the sliding member which has the sliding portion that slides in contact with the guide member. Moreover, the screw portion which is provided on the sliding member is able to be plastically deformable.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited patents do not disclose or suggest the above-characterized structure of the present invention.

For these various reasons it is believed that the claims as now presented are allowable over the cited references, and therefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Respectfully submitted,

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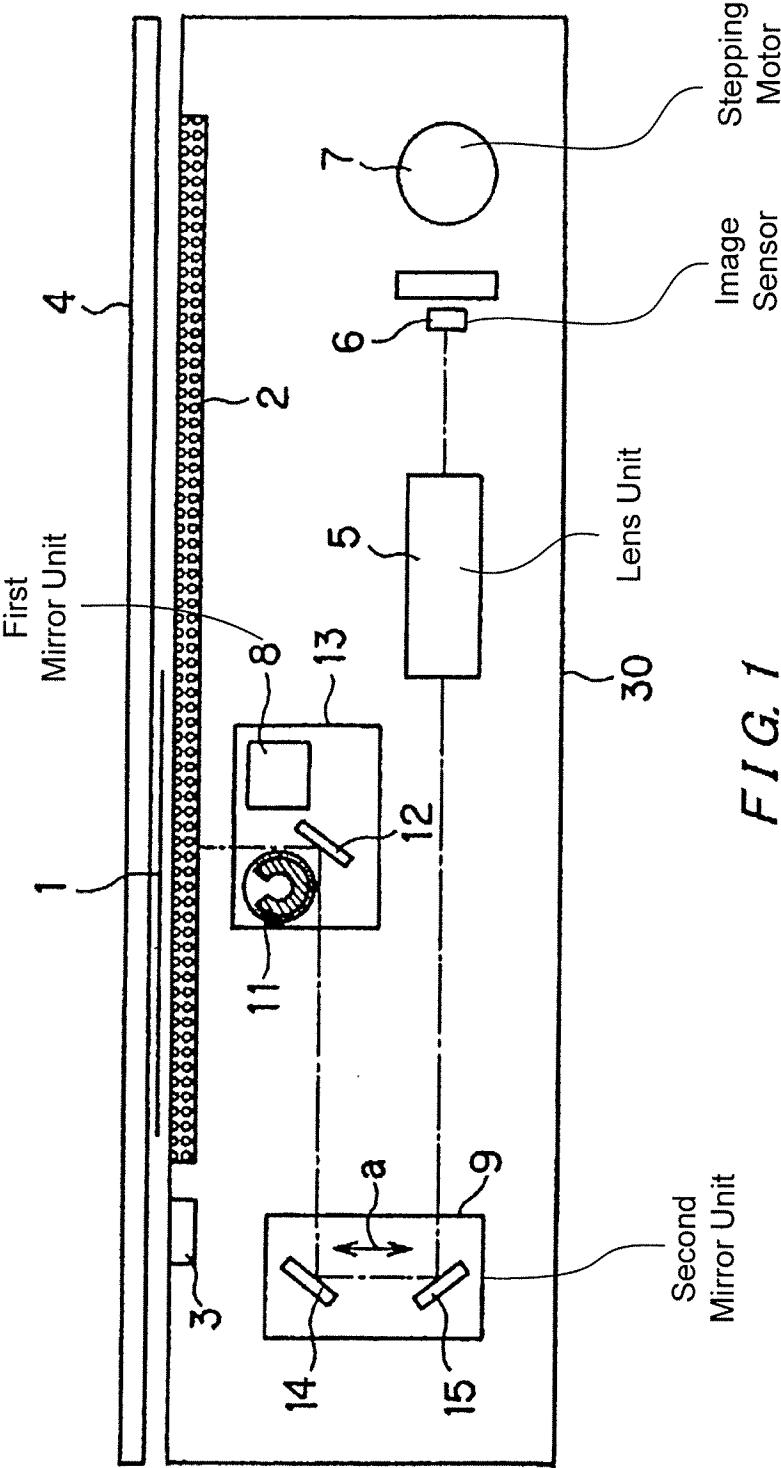


FIG. 1

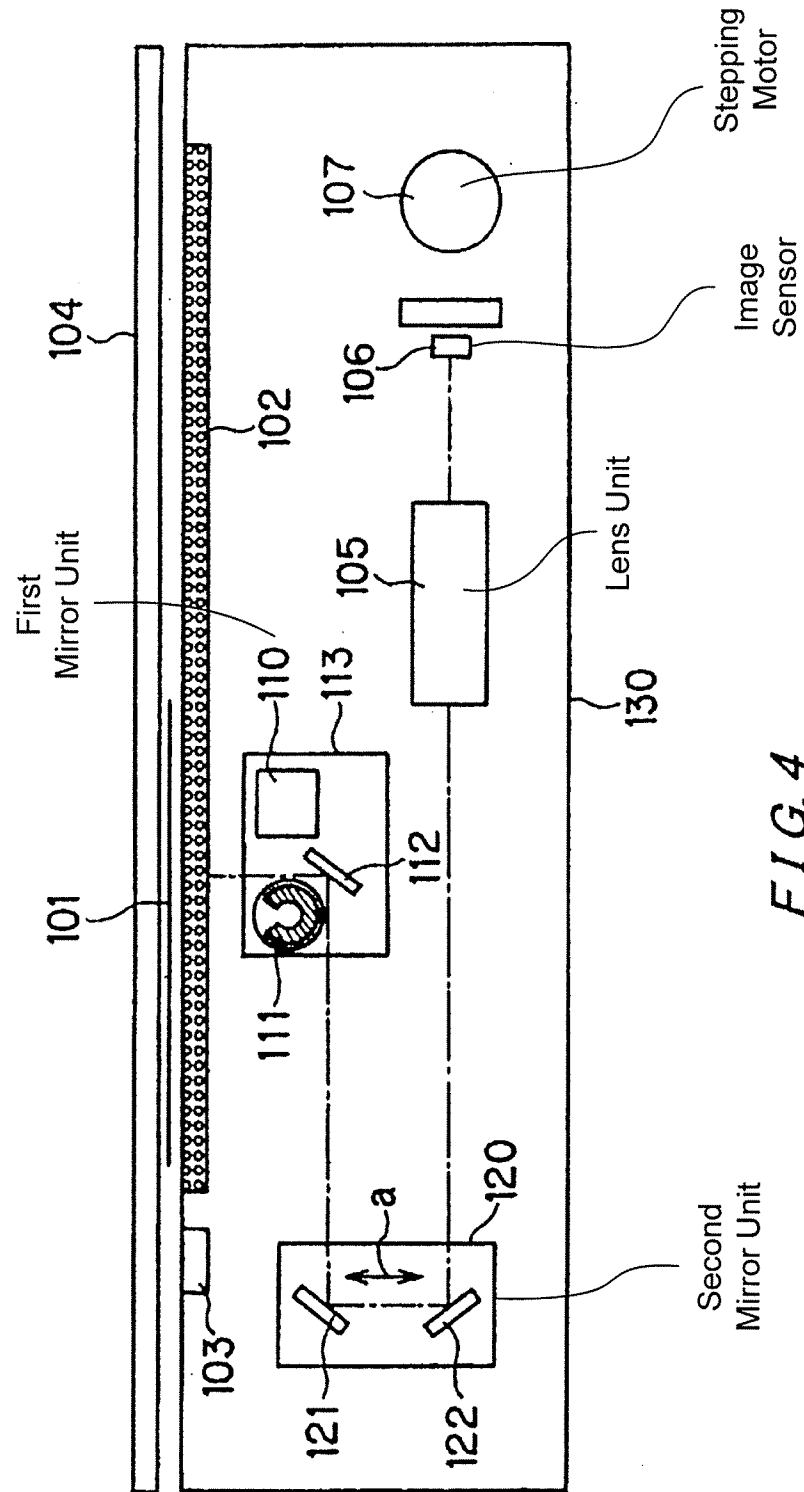


FIG. 4